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the death of Kemal Yar Jung the property came under the administration of the Court of Wards. In the meantime, vast changes were taking place in Hyderabad. After the Police Action of 1948, Hyderabad became an integral part of the Indian Republic. With the inauguration of the democratic order the Nizam has become a constitutional ruler and the feudal system within the State has been abolished. In consequence Shamirpet now comes under the jurisdiction of the normal district administration.

Shamirpet is situated at a distance of about a furlong from the north-bound road which runs between Hyderabad and Karimnagar. An unmetalled road links the village with the main road, from which some of the houses in the village are clearly visible. Between the road and the village there is a flat and fairly level patch of ground, and in the centre of this ground there is a tree around which the Muslims bury their dead. At the junction of the main road and the diversion leading to the village there is a small shelter for passengers awaiting the buses, built in stone and lime. A little way down to the north stands the Inspection Bungalow of the State Public Works Department. It is intended for the use of touring government officials, and can also be used by occasional visitors, who have to make a small payment for its use. Further north, at a distance of about two and a half furlongs, is the tank, which in its setting of barren rocks and tall trees provides a beautiful landscape. Between the tank and the road now lie the ruins of the 'summer house' which was built on the tank-bund by the last feudal landlord of the village. In his time it was provided with an electric generator, pipe lines and modern sanitary fittings, but after the Nawab's death it was deserted and is now a melancholy but romantic sight.

The village itself is not built according to a definite plan. A wide main street lies in the centre and runs almost parallel to and roughly a furlong away from the main road. As we proceed northwards down this street we find on the right a number of whitewashed stone buildings housing the various government offices, and on the left there are a number of small tea and betel shops. On the right there are also the residential quarters of the sub-inspector of police who is in charge of the police station, a government granary, living quarters of the police constables, the village dispensary, the school and the post office. Lanes branch off both right and left from the street, and on either side of these lanes are

of the District Boards varied from 50 per cent to higher proportion even to an appropriation of the whole amount giving whatever sum the District Boards might be pleased to give back to Panchayat from which the sum was collected. Tuni Panchayat in East Godavari got Rs. 30,000 by way of public market fees out of which 50 per cent was taken out by the District Board. Similarly the District Board took 50 per cent of the cattle market proceeds amounting to about Rs. 500 per annum. Similarly, Narsapur Panchayat gave all its income from public markets to the District Board. In Tadepalligudam Panchayat, the District Board took Rs. 29,000/- leaving only Rs. 1,000 to Panchayat out of its annual income of Rs. 30,000 from public markets. In Kistna, Vizagapatam, Anantpur and Kurnool Districts, the inroads on Panchayat funds were not so many as in the two Godavari Districts. The District Boards had nothing in return to offer to the Panchayat by way of public amenities in lieu of the moneys they earned from them. Unless the whole scheme of Local Government is reorganised and reformed, such serious inroads into the finances of Panchayats cannot be averted. The District Boards whose existence appears to be superfluous in view of the developed Panchayats and Municipalities can at least be reduced to advisory councils without powers to utilize on such a large scale the moneys they are not really entitled to grab We shall discuss this in detail later.

Cart and Bus Stand Fees and Cycle Licenses: Collection of fees from cart stands and bus stands was a good source of income to the major Panchayats in Madras. The rates of fees even in this matter varied from Panchayat to Panchayat of the same grade in the same district, from one grade to another and from district to district. Again, very few Panchayats really looked after the amenities that were to be provided in these bus and cart stands, such as rest-shelters, canteens or fresh water pots. The Panchayats were only interested in auctioning these to the highest bidder who would pay the amount to the Panchayat in lump sum and take upon himself the responsibility of collecting the fees at the rates fixed by the Panchayats. These rates were to be collected only from carts which would halt at the stands and not on carts which merely passed by them and were not halting. Breach of this rule had led to the filing of suits in Law Courts, on reasons of prestige, where Panchayats had to be admonished.

Bus and cart stand fees varied from place to place. Information available for a few Panchayats showed that the fees for taxies, buses and lorries were more uniform than that for, say, jatkas. The former

In other sample Panchayats it was not possible to ascertain the rates. 651

Even when the majority of the major Panchayats were not collecting this source of income, the minor Panchayats could not be naturally expected to do better. This was also one of the sources of income of Panchayats which deserved greater attention from the inspecting authorities for its proper enforcement. (Column 22.)

Choultry Fees: These were fees which could be collected from travellers who stayed in the public rest places for temporary sojourn now and then. Here also the buildings were of the District Board or of the Panchayat and the rate per diem varied from annas eight to Rs. 2/- per person as in Guntakal where every room in the Panchayat choultry was let out to travellers at the rates of Re. 1/-, Rs. 1/8/- and Rs. 2/- per day, and this fetched on the whole quite a good amount i. e. Rs. 400/-. (Column 16.) 651 485

This was a source of income which could only be collected if there were good choultries in the Panchayat area which could accommodate passengers. There were in some Panchayats choultries which were in a dilapidated condition. They would have to be reconditioned so as to make them habitable and useful sources of revenue.

Grants-in-aid: These were of four categories: 1. grants-in-aid to schools, 2. grants-in-aid to libraries, 3. grants-in-aid for water supply, and 4. grants-in-aid for roads. 652

Grants-in-aid to schools were received by Panchayat schools in East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Anantapur. But this topic is fully discussed in the Section on School Panchayats. But grants-in-aid for roads, grants-in-aid for water-supply and grants-in-aid to libraries formed a negligible part.

Here they were mentioned to indicate that they formed a special part of the Panchayat finance. The chief feature of these grants was that they were not based on any rational basis, like the proportion of the Panchayat income, or population, or other needs, but they were granted on an ad-hoc basis from time to time.

License Fees on Dangerous and Offensive Trades: These license fees were imposed in several Panchayats both major and minor on a variety of trades and callings like boiling camphor, melting tallow or sulphur, storing or otherwise dealing in ophal, blood, bones, hides and skins, storing, selling or curing fish, making fish oil, storing or selling horses, tanning of hides and skins, mustering or drying wool or hair, making soap, manufacturing of distilled sago, 651

367 In the Godavari Districts again, some of the minor Panchayats appeared to be paying heed to this as in Yeditha and Kapileswarapuram but none of the minor Panchayats in other districts showed any interest.

207 **Radio**: This had become more or less a universal feature in most of the Panchayats both major and minor and provided recreation to the listening public.

485 **Provision of Bus Stands and Cart Stands**: This was a practice that was gradually growing but was not yet prevalent on a wide scale. Some of the major Panchayats had this facility within their areas as Razole in East Godavari, Tadepalligudam, Kovvur, Undi, Velpur, Akividu and Peatapadu in West Godavari, Vuyyuru in Kistna, Parvatipuram, Bobbili, Salur and Kasimkot in Vizagapatam, Dharmavaram and Gooty in Anantpur, and Nandikotkur, Dhone and Pattikonda in Kurnool.

744 **Help in Case of Epidemics**: This obligation was met with varying degrees of success in the several Panchayats. The Panchayats in the 1st grade were giving every possible attention, while the Panchayats in the 2nd and 3rd grades were not always able to do much though they too appeared to be very enthusiastic. For instance, the 2nd grade Panchayats like Vuyyuru and Jaggayapeta in Kistna and 3rd grade Panchayats like Razole in East Godavari, Ganapavaram in West Godavari, Bobbili, Salur and Parvatipuram in Vizagapatam, Markapur, Maddikera, Kadiri and Nandikotkur in Kurnool, Yeditha, Gooty and Penu Konda in Anantpur and Kosgi, Harpanhalli, Kudligi, etc. in Bellary were assisting the villagers in times of infection, by providing additional sanitary help and vaccinators.

743 **Dispensaries and Medical Help**: A few Panchayats began to contemplate of late to undertake this obligation. Panchayats like Amalapuram in East Godavari spent nearly Rs. 2,000 per year on this [232] item. Bhimavaram in West Godavari had constructed a veterinary hospital at a cost of Rs. 4,000 and also gave an annual donation of Rs. 2,500 to it. Tanuku and Ramchandrapuram Panchayats in East Godavari intended opening medical centres. They were found to be making the necessary preparations. Tadepalligudam, another 3rd Grade Panchayat in West Godavari was able to gather about Rs. 2,000 with a view to start a veterinary dispensary of its own. Mukkamala, a minor Panchayat in East Godavari was the first Panchayat in the Presidency to have a medical dispensary of its own since the last twenty years. In Vuyyuru and Bobbili, the